



SAND TRAP — Duxbury Beach serves as test for a cement block sand saver invented by Sam Fair, left, of Bay City, Mich. Ron Kidd, right, of Sandgrabber of Massachusetts in Marsh-

field, is funding the \$20,000 project aimed at stabilizing the famous beach in northeast storms.

(Richard Green Photo)

Duxbury Sandgrabber Test

Beach May Arise From Cement, Steel

DUXBURY — Instead of the usual sand castle, beachcombers walking along Duxbury Beach yesterday were witnesses to the completion of a beach erosion control system called the Sandgrabber.

The first project of its kind on the East Coast, according to Ronald Kidd, head of Sandgrabber of Massachusetts, the structure, consisting of steel rods and cement blocks, "will save the sand and stop beach erosion."

This model here is being built because "We wanted the full force of the northeasterly wind to see

how the Sandgrabber will stand up to storms, and the full force of the ocean," Mr. Kidd said.

The one-year test was approved by the Army Corps of Engineers and the state Division of Land and Water Use, to see if the wall's semi-circular design would prove effective in preventing beach erosion.

Town officials will be monitoring the experiment, according to a spokesman for the Army Corps, who said "They'll have to take the wall out if it doesn't work."

The Corps spokesman said the wall is designed to allow free

passage of water and sand from Cape Cod Bay to the beach, "and, as the waves go back out, water passes through the openings of the blocks. This uses up the energy of the waves and drops the sand behind the wall."

He said that eventually the wall itself will be covered, according to designers, and the resulting sand heap will itself attract more sand.

He added the "new sand" would come from the waters off the shore.

The permit was issued to Duxbury Beach Association.

Sandgrabber's purpose, Mr. Kidd said, is to deposit sand in front and behind the half-moon-shaped wall until it is completely covered. This "new beach," he added, should be visible in about 30 days.

Invented three years ago in Michigan by Samuel Fair, Sandgrabber has since been franchised and patented in the United States and several foreign countries. Mr. Kidd said the project has been completed in Alabama and Canada, and will also be built in Maryland and New Jersey.

Mr. Kidd said the Duxbury Sandgrabber, which is 200 feet long and three feet high, was built with the help of local builders.

"It's very easy to understand how the Sandgrabber works once you see it. All it involves is Mother Nature doing most of the work," Mr. Kidd said.